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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 117

Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I was in a high-level conference. I am not in favor of Senator Beutler's amendment. Keep this in mind. What is the purpose of the logbook? Let's say that it is to give law enforcement some kind of trail to follow regarding everybody who has made a purchase of a legal product that doesn't require a prescription. Senator Johnson, I think, may have been the one who talked about a database. And you could have one trooper sitting at that database, calling up names. What I cannot seem to get through my colleagues' skulls into their brain is this. Why are you going to make every citizen a part of a law enforcement operation? Why are you going to put the names of citizens in a data bank used for law enforcement purposes, when that person has not only not violated the law, has not even given probable cause for a cop to believe that person violated the law? You talk about going head over heels into the abyss where you find law enforcement trying to provide answers to social problems, and you have LB 117. I do not want ordinary citizens to be part of a law enforcement database. I have opposed that when it comes to collecting DNA, even from people convicted of crimes. Just because there is some kind of technology available is no justification to use it against the innocent. And that's what all of these kind of bills move toward. The impact is overwhelmingly on the innocent. You all would rather discommode 99.9 percent of the innocent citizens to get .1 percent, perhaps. And you're not going to get all of them. By now you should have a copy of the article that I handed around. I had said more than 80 percent of this methamphetamine is coming from outside of the state. On the floor, the insistence was that it's 80 percent. That is extremely high. But if you look at the article that I gave you, the State Patrol acknowledged that less than 20 percent of this stuff is produced in Nebraska. That means more than 80 percent comes from outside Nebraska, which is what I argued. Senator Aguilar and some others, and especially the Attorney General, probably the Governor, have kept saying 80 percent, to get you to thinking that the 80 percent is of no consequence. Just give these cops whatever they say they need to get this information on private citizens. This information is not going to tell them